

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 030

FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2004

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I N S I D E

See GROUP on Page 8

See FREE on Page 8

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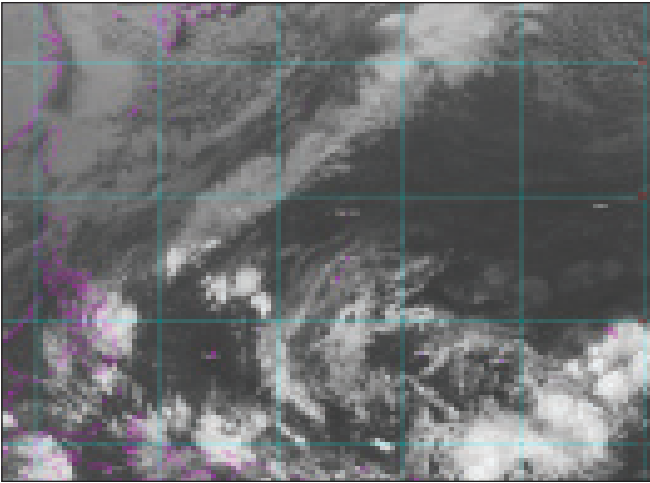
baby news

cbcruz

mcdo

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WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., JANUARY 22, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E

A near equatorial trough stretching from near 4n130e to 3n140e to3n160e to the equator and 165e is generating a few areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. The first area over yap and Palau is between the equator and 8n from 130e to 145e. The second area is over Chuuk state and is between 2n and 11n from 145e to 155e. The third area covers portions of Pohnpei and Kosrae states and is between the equator and 5n from 155e to 168e. Convergent low-level flow and a weak trough of low pressure are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across portions of the southern Marshall islands including Majuro between 3n and 9n from 168e to 175e. A cold front northwest of the Marianas extends from near 25n140e to 16n130e. Extensive low-level clouds and showers are found



SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast near 15 mph. Highs near 86. Lows near 75.



GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast near 15 mph. Highs near 86. Lows near 75.



PALAU
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast 10 kt.



POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East 10-15 kt.



KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



CHUUK
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

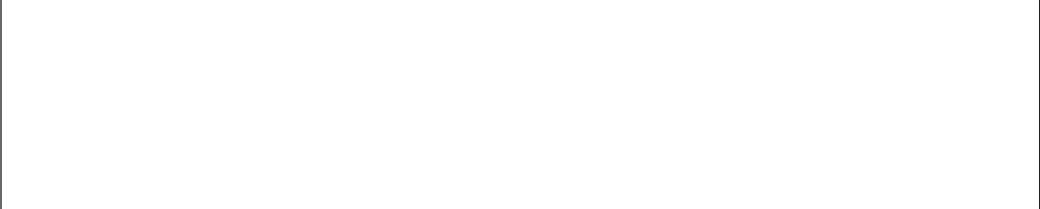
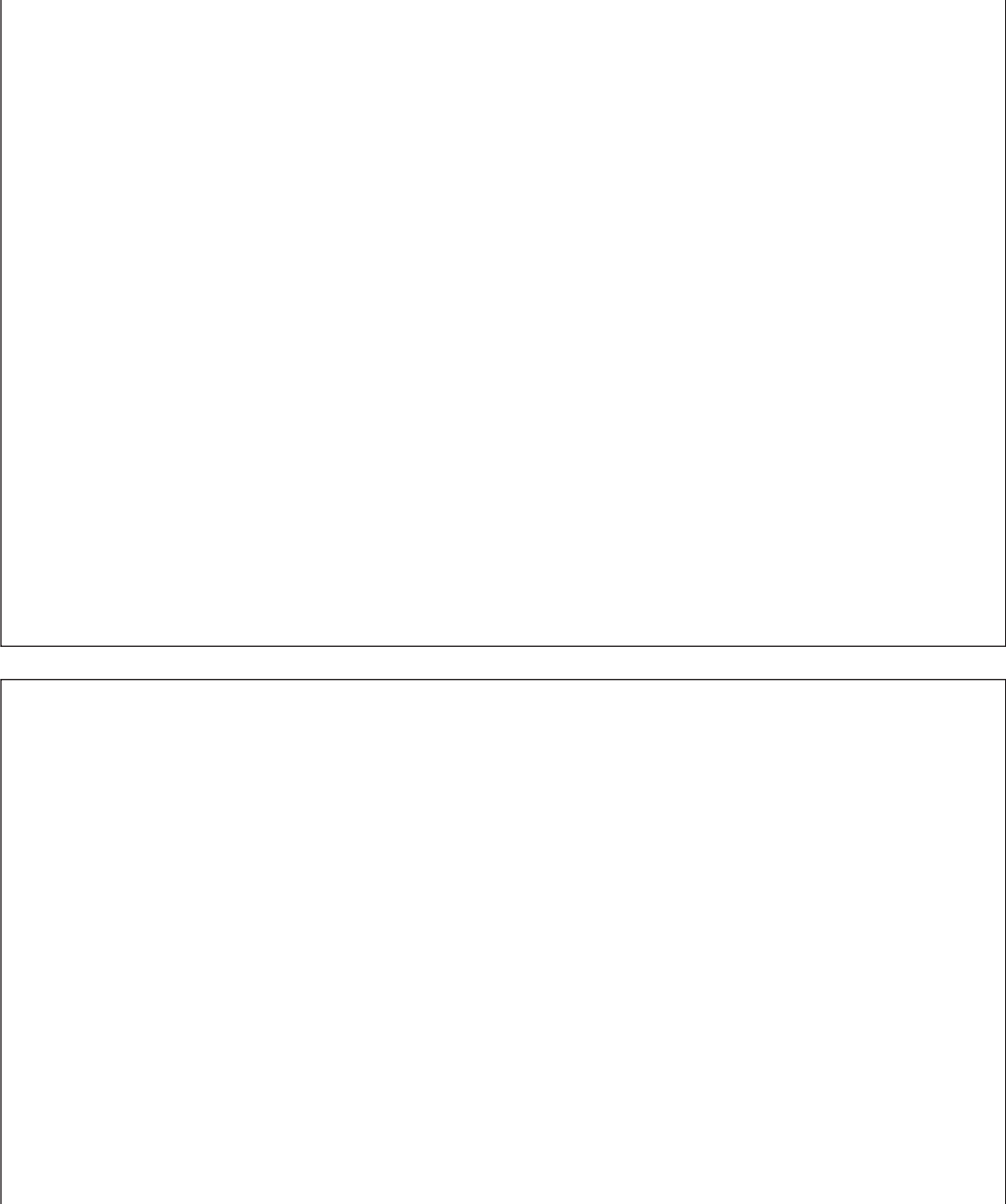


MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Cloudy	70F (21C)	57F (14C)
Beijing	Cloudy	26F (-3C)	7F (-14C)
Hong Kong	Sunny	55F (13C)	46F (8C)
Honolulu	Showers	81F (27C)	68F (20C)
London, England	Cloudy	51F (11C)	44F (7C)
Los Angeles	Sunny	72F (22C)	46F (8C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	66F (19C)
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73F (23C)	50F (10C)
Miami	Sunny	70F (21C)	49F (9C)
New York City	Partly Cloudy	24F (-4C)	16F (-9C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	28F (-2C)	15F (-9C)
Paris	Cloudy	45F (7C)	38F (3C)
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	26F (-3C)	15F (-9C)
Rome	Cloudy	37F (3C)	26F (-3C)
Salem, Oregon	Rain	48F (9C)	38F (3C)
San Francisco	Sunny	57F (14C)	45F (7C)
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	18F (-8C)	2F (-17C)
Tokyo, Japan	Sunny	38F (3C)	26F (-3C)
Washington, DC	Sunny	30F (-1C)	26F (-3C)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE NOV. 7, 2003							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
Saipan-Guam				Guam-Saipan			
CO 948	8:15am	8:55am	Daily	CO 941	7:15am	8:00am	Daily
NW 3821	8:45am	7:30am	Daily	CO 910	7:15am	8:00am	2,6
NW 3825	4:30pm	5:20pm	1-5	NW 3800	8:00am	8:30am	Daily
NW 3803	4:15pm	5:30pm	Daily	NW 3828	1:30pm	2:20pm	Daily
CO 942	8:10pm	8:40pm	Daily	CO 943	4:40pm	5:25pm	Daily
CO 944	8:10pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,6,7	NW 3808	5:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
CO 909	8:10pm	8:50pm	1,5	NW 3824	8:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
				CO 945	7:50pm	8:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Manila				Manila-Saipan			
CO 895	8:10pm	10:50pm	2,4	CO 880	10:40pm	4:20am*1	2,4
*Beginning Dec. 9, 2003 until April 2004.				*Beginning Dec. 9, 2003 until April 2004.			
Saipan-Tokyo				Tokyo-Saipan			
NW 075	8:55am	1:30pm	Daily	JAL 947	10am	2:20pm	Daily
JAL 948	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily	NW 076	10:35am	3:00pm	Daily
NW 076	5:50pm	7:30pm	Daily	NW 077	5:45pm	045A*1	Daily
Saipan-Osaka				Osaka-Saipan			
JAL 940	8:10am	8:30am	Daily	JAL 949	8:00pm	1:25am*1	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya				Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 075	8:55am	11:40am		CO 874	12:35pm	5:10pm	Daily
CO 979	8:55am	11:35am		NW 077	8:05pm	045A*1	Daily
Saipan-Seoul				Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 255	2:40am	8:30am	Daily	OZ 256	8:20pm	1:40am*1	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Rota-Saipan			
NW 3805	7:45am	8:15am	Daily	NW 3800	8:00am	8:30am	Daily
NW 3807	10:00am	10:30am	Daily	NW 3802	1:30am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 3803	4:15pm	4:45pm	Daily	NW 3808	7:00pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				Tinian-Saipan			
ZU 101	8:45am	8:55am	Daily	ZU 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
ZU 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	ZU 104	7:50am	8am	Daily
ZU 105	8am	8:10am	Daily	ZU 108	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
ZU 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	ZU 109	9am	9:10am	Daily
ZU 109	8:10am	9:20am	Daily	ZU 110	10am	10:10am	Daily
ZU 111	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	ZU 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
ZU 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	ZU 114	12pm	12:10pm	Daily
ZU 115	1pm	1:10pm	Daily	ZU 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
ZU 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	ZU 118	2:50pm	3pm	Daily
ZU 119	4pm	4:10pm	Daily	ZU 120	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
ZU 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	ZU 122	5pm	5:10pm	Daily
ZU 123	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	ZU 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
ZU 125	6pm	6:10pm	Daily	ZU 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
NW 3825	4:30pm	4:42pm	6 & 7	NW 3824	7:45pm	7:57pm	5 & 6
NW 3827	8pm	8:15p	New FL 5				
Rota-Guam				Guam-Rota			
NW 3805	8:30am	10:00am	Daily	CO 910	8:25am	7:10am	2,6
NW 3801	12:30pm	1:30pm	Daily	CO 941	8:25am	7:10am	1,2,4,7
NW 3803	5pm	5:30pm	Daily	NW 3806	7:45am	8:15am	1,2,4,7
NW 3806	7:00pm	5:30pm	5	NW 3806	7:45am	8:15am	2,6
NW 3827	8:10pm	9:15pm	5	NW 3800	8:00AM	08:30am	Daily
				NW 3800	10:05am	10:35am	Daily
				NW 3807	10:05am	10:35am	Daily
				NW 3808	5:45pm	6:15pm	Daily
Tinian-Guam				Guam-Tinian			
NW 3825	5pm	5:45pm	6 & 7	NW 3824	6:30pm	6:15pm	(1 stop in GPN) 5
NW 3827	8:30pm	9:15pm	5				
(Editor's Note: Days: Monday(1), Tuesday(2), Wednesday(3), Thursday(4), Friday(5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental Airlines; NW: Northwest Airlines; JAL: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana Airlines; PA and ZU: Pacific Islands Aviation. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota							
FRE 100	7:30am	8:00am	Daily	FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Guam							
FRE 100	8:30am	8:55am	Daily	FRE 116	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota							
FRE 200	10:00am	10:30am	Daily	FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
Rota-Guam							
FRE 200	10:45am	11:15am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Guam-Rota							
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota							
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				Tinian-Saipan w/connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
Saipan-Tinian							
FRE 101	8:45am	8:55am	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
				FRE 118	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
				FRE 119	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
				FRE 122**	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
				FRE 124	6:06pm	6:15pm	Daily
				FRE 125	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Gore's Game

There goes Al Gore again. Remaking himself. Remaking the Democratic Party. Remaking America. Or so he says. The former Democratic nominee for president shook up the 2004 Democratic presidential race by endorsing Howard Dean for the nomination. Gore's blessing gives the former Vermont governor, who has been running as an insurgent, the patina of support from the party establishment. And it solidifies Dean's position as the front-runner for the nomination, as unlikely as that may seem.

Does that mean the race is over? Not so fast! Not when there hasn't been a vote cast yet. There's too much about Dean that isn't known. And it is ridiculously presumptive of the media, us included, to award the nomination before any real Democratic voters have been heard from. Let's wait for Iowa, New Hampshire and then all the big states to weigh in.

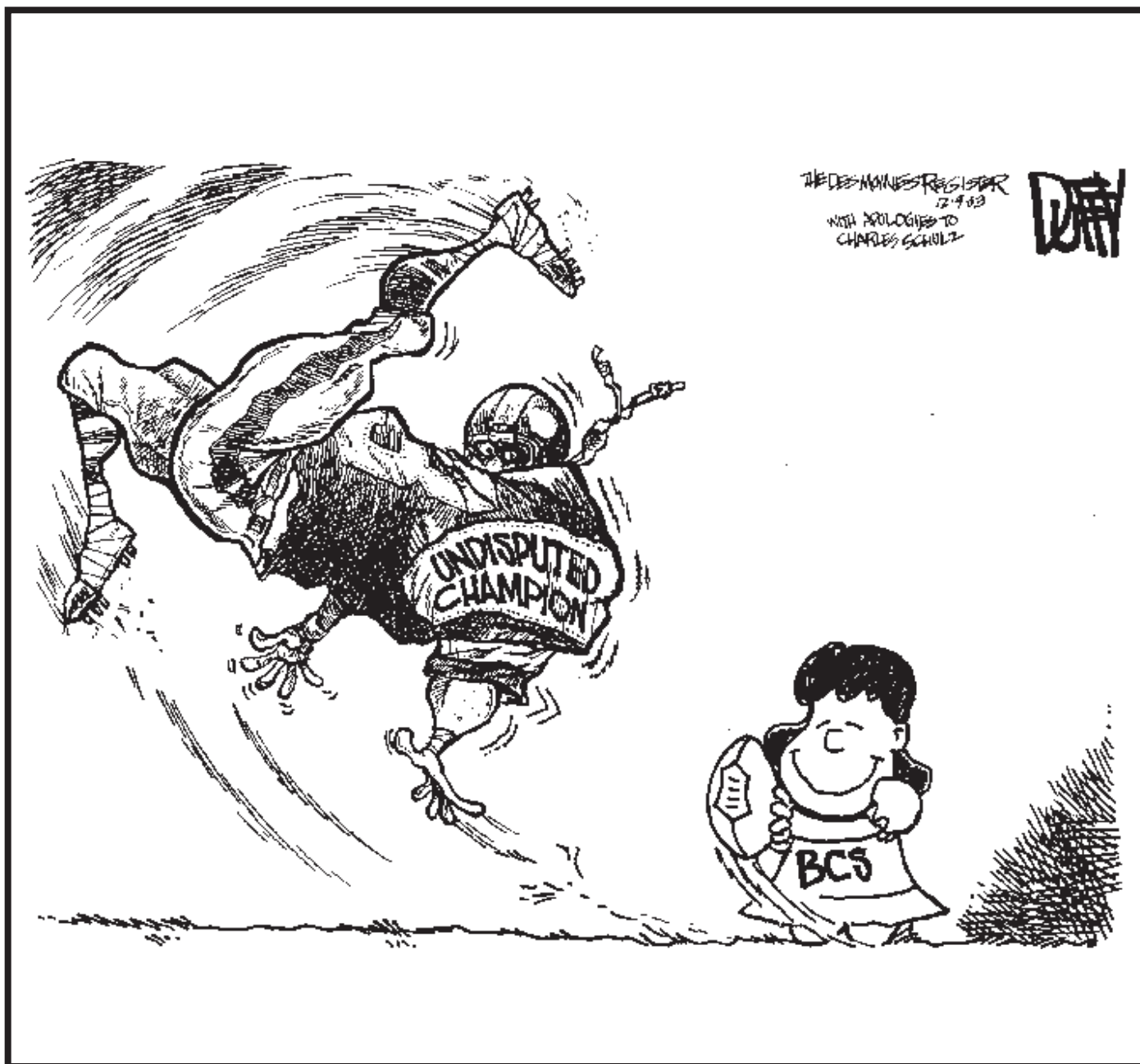
Still, Gore's announcement in the city yesterday was a stunner. Insiders say Gore, who models himself a futurist, was taken with Dean's New Age campaign, especially his use of the Internet to connect with young voters. And Gore, the former vice president, agreed with Dean's early opposition to the war in Iraq.

But while Gore's endorsement will help Dean's candidacy gain a certain credibility, Gore is a somewhat tarnished figure who has grown smaller since he lost the contested election to George W. Bush in 2000. One of the things that hurt Gore the most was the sense that he was constantly "remaking" himself, changing from blue suits to brown, from new Democrat to old. There was a sense of unguineness about Gore, which was not necessarily fair but still hurt him politically. Now he's saying the party has to "remake" itself.

What's his game? Some people were upset that Gore didn't even bother to notify his 2000 running mate, Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, that he was endorsing Dean. It's legitimate to ask how Gore could have chosen Lieberman to be the man to run the nation if anything happened to him and now bypass Lieberman for a man with no Washington experience.

Maybe Gore wants to pick up the New Age voting base that Dean has attracted and use it himself for a run in 2008 if Bush is re-elected. Remake or no, it's still all about politics.

Newsday



Nothing beats a direct flight

For Filipinos—and other members of the community who travel between the Northern Marianas and the Philippines, Continental Airlines' decision to start serving the Saipan-Manila route again is a welcome development. It practically shortens the flying time, thus, making it a stress-free process.

Majority of us have our own personal encounters with a layover—either on Guam or in Seoul, South Korea. And more often than not, it is more straining than fun, no matter how big the airport is or how good the shops are, and how short the layover time is.

I have personal encounters with a layover that is longer than the actual trip itself. I still unfortunately remember strolling around the Guam International Airport for 10 grueling hours when I was once sent to Palau for an assignment. I was literally trapped inside the Guam airport because I didn't have a U.S. visa then to allow me entry into the island-territory.

Just this year, I had to wait 12 backbreaking hours inside South Korea's Incheon International Airport when I attended—together with journalists from all over Asia—a roundtable discussion on migration issues in Bangkok, Thailand.

My Palau and Thailand trips are not what you would say a regular destination among most of us, especially Filipino nonresident workers in the CNMI who mostly touch base once every year. But this year's suspension of the Transit Without Visa program forced a big number of us away from the usual Saipan-Guam-Manila flights offered by Continental Airlines into Asiana Airlines' Saipan-Incheon-Manila service, or Northwest Airlines' Saipan-Japan-Manila route.

There's nothing wrong with stopping over Incheon or Narita on our way to the Philippines but there are also some factors to consider. It's still cheap to take Asiana's Saipan-Incheon-Manila flight but the route practically lengthens the traveling time: 2 hours advance check-in plus 3.5 hours flying time from Saipan to South Korea plus 2 hours layover in Incheon plus about 3 hours flying time from Seoul to Manila equals about 10 exhausting hours of traveling.

Yet still, many travelers put more weight on the extra money they would save by sacrificing a little time strolling around South

By ALDWIN R. FAJARDO

The views expressed are strictly that of the author.
Fajardo is the editor of the Saipan Tribune.



Korea's gorgeous Incheon airport, with all the fascinating retail shops and food establishments sprawling inside it.

Northwest also offers a very tempting package for Manila-bound travelers but it doesn't seem to suit most Filipino workers' travel desires due to strict visa requirements implemented by the Japanese government. Still, a possible visit to the Tokyo Disneyland is still a major thing to consider.

A direct service between Saipan and Manila is the best solution to Philippine-bound passengers' traveling dilemma. Bottom line is, nothing beats a direct service, especially if the destination is only about three hours away from the point of origin.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

We are now in the process of reviewing the accomplishments of those who have made it to the final list of nominees for the annual Saipan Tribune Person of the Year. The Tribune gives this award each year—now on its fifth year—to recognize the efforts and commitment of those who untiringly and consistently do their part in making the CNMI a better place to live in.

Like last year, we will be naming one Person of the Year for 2003 and nine honorable mentions. Nominees are judged based on the impacts of their contributions or efforts on the lives or overall well-being of the people or the community they intended to serve.

Among those who have been recognized in the last five years were: HIV/AIDS educator Moses Saburo (1999); Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas and then-board chairman Roman S. Palacios, and then-House Speaker Ben Fital (2000); David Borja, former principal of Hopwood Junior High School (2001); and Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona for 2002.

Who will it be this year?

The adult GPA

Whether it's the Commonwealth seeking to float \$40 million in bonds, or your brother in law trying to finance a car, it seems like every entity and living being on the planet has got a credit rating and credit score appended to their name.

Oh, yuck, credit scores. Does anyone really want to hear about those?

Well, the good citizens of the Commonwealth should, given that the ghost of the Union Bank of California may be haunting your financial records. UBOC is long gone from our shores, but if you held a UBOC credit card, you may have been subjected to a little surprise. At issue is the fact that UBOC actually transferred some or all (I've been told it was all) of its credit card business to another company.

The transfer actually pre-dated UBOC's exodus from our fair shores, and the two events were entirely unrelated.

If you ever dealt with UBOC, you'll recall that they were a prime bank, a quality outfit. UBOC, is a corporate cousin of the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, and the Japanese focus on excellent customer service was certainly a hallmark of UBOC's operations. First Hawaiian Bank, as you know, picked up UBOC's action here and retained many of the excellent staffers, which was good news for the community.

On the less happy end of things, when UBOC slipped its credit card business to another company, things didn't end so well. You have to be very careful who you deal with in the credit card industry, since not all companies are honorable.

As for any former UBOC customers, then, you should review your records carefully. If you have a credit card that has "Union Bank of California" stamped on the front, it may not really be issued by UBOC. Yikes! If you find some unknown company lurking in the background on that one, I'd advise closing the account immediately and taking your business to another place. This is a "consumer alert" from me, and I'll be happy to compile reader feedback on this note, so feel free to e-mail me any experience you may have had along these lines. I have uncovered some disturbing information on the topic and my interest is piqued, big time.

Since I'm on the credit topic, I'll mention that American Express, as well as at least one credit reporting agency, is selling a credit monitoring service. These guys eyeball your credit activity on a daily basis, in order to prevent identity theft or other monkey business from messing with your records. I paid 99 buckaroos to enroll in the service for one year. Cheapskate that I am, I think it's worth dropping a C-note on the deal.

Credit records have become the Grade Point Average of adult life. It's worth keeping an eye on your files.

Meanwhile, I'm gathering the writing files for next year; we've got a lot of ground to cover. The Commonwealth economy will be the hot topic, of course. And—drum roll—yours truly is preparing to launch a new business that you'll be hearing about, which is why I've been in meetings with attorneys this week and have not answered anyone's calls or e-mails. So much for goofing off during the holidays. In fact, I get so worn out planning for 2004 already that I'm wishing that 2003 would last a couple of months longer. I guess that Santa can't deliver more time to even the best of



By ED STEPHENS

Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan

Some soulful memories in papa's bag

You had to take off your shoes. No shoes on the gym floor. No sneakers, either. Not if you were going to do the James Brown during a pep rally at my high school. And during those years, from 1966 to 1968, whenever the band broke into, say, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," you were going to do the James Brown.

You had to.

If Martin Luther King Jr. was telling us to stride toward freedom, Brown was showing us how to glide toward it. And of course, we all wanted to arrive in style.

Unlike the twist or the funky chicken, the James Brown required both frenzy and precision—qualities that represented the tensions of our times as we moved from the regimented life of Old South segregation (my school was Booker T. Washington High in Shreveport, La.) toward a world where you could finally say it loud, "I'm Black and I'm Proud!"

The Kennedy Center Honors that Brown received Sunday brought back those memories.

"We honor one of the most influential musicians of the last 50 years," Kennedy Center Chairman James A. Johnson said of Brown. That would put the onset of Brown's influence pretty close to the start of my life.

Last year, I read a profile of Brown in the New Yorker magazine that led me to the conclusion that given Soul Brother No. 1's troubles with the drug PCP and the police, his struggles with past wives, mistresses, girlfriends and others, along with the fallout from some peculiar political stands, he was lucky to be alive.

"Race, poverty and exclusion were the defining features of James Brown's childhood world, and he might easily have seen himself as cursed," Philip Gourevitch wrote in the New Yorker. "Instead, he seems to have understood himself to be a free agent—denied the comforts of a conventional home, but also spared its constraints—with no choice but to fight for emancipation however he could."

Did that explain Brown's weird behavior—or how he survived in spite of it? Did too much adulation and exaltation lead him to believe that he could do no wrong? A Look magazine article in 1969 declared: "James Brown is a new important leader. His

By COURTLAND MILLOY
The Washington Post



constituency dwarfs Stokely Carmichael's and the late Dr. Martin Luther King's." Did such twisted statements go to his head?

All I know is that during adolescence, I'd break out in a cold sweat right along with the Godfather of Soul. I never knew why papa needed a brand-new bag, unless it had wine in it; but I knew what to say when I got something new: "I feel good!" or "I got the feeling!"

And the only way to express that feeling was to do the James

Brown—to glide on one leg, if you could, with head bobbing and fists pumping, then spin, jump and fall into a 180-degree split, then snap back up—unhurt—and resume your glide.

I also knew how it felt not to get anything at all, especially from a girl. Again, Brown provided words and rhythm suitable

able to the occasion in what must be the best begging song of all time by a male vocalist, "Please, Please, Please."

I counted the word "please" 25 times—seven times back-to-back at the start—on a recording that lasts less than three minutes.

Gourevitch dissected Brown's performance: "With each repetition, he invested the monosyllable with a different emotional accent and stress—prayer and pride, impatience and invitation—and although there was ache in his voice, he did not sound like a man pleading so much as commanding what was rightfully his."

This was not a song for doing the James Brown. Our band couldn't play it, and nobody but Brown could sing it. You couldn't whistle or hum it, either. You could, however, put it on a record player to convey your desire for that special someone to stay just a little longer.

Oh, yes. Good God almighty. Honey, please. Don't. Ohhh. Oh, yeah. Lord. I love you so. Pleeceeeeeease. Don't go. Pleeceee-

Foreign currencies and CNMI's economy

How do changes in value of foreign currencies affect the CNMI's economy?

International currencies, which are free floating, trade like commodities in the international financials markets and their values are determined on buying and selling volumes. However, some countries keep the value of their currencies fixed and only change as they deem necessary or due to international pressure. Examples of free floating currencies are Japanese yen and American dollar while Chinese yuan is fixed in value. Exchange rates are expressed as value of one country's currency in terms of another country's currency. For example, current price or value of Japanese Yen in terms of U.S. dollar is around 110 yen per dollar, similar to how we express the price of a commodity, such as 2 pounds of bananas per dollar.

When the value of a given country's currency rises its products become expensive to other countries to buy and vice versa. For example, U.S. dollar value against yen has decreased from about 120 to 110 yen in about a year. It means that the prices of the Japanese products for us have increased and the prices of our products to Japanese have decreased. In our case, the CNMI's products and services are cheaper to Japanese visitors because the fall in the value of dollar in terms of yen has increased their buying power. This is also a very favorable factor to get more visitors or the visitors who come here to spend more. On the other hand for the Japanese investors who have to send back their investment returns to their parent companies, this factor is unfavorable because it has reduced the yen value of their returns. It has also reduced the yen value of salaries of Japanese business managers who work here.

Now, looking at the Philippines' case whose currency has been consistently falling against the dollar, this has an opposite effect

By DR. MOHAMMAD ASHRAF



to that of Japan. As soon as the Philippine peso falls, it implies an automatic rise in the wages of Filipino workers in the CNMI because they get paid in dollars. In this case it would be in the best interest of Filipino workers to keep their savings in dollars and send home only enough to meet the needs of their families. Unlike Filipino workers, Chinese workers don't have incentive to keep their savings here because the value of their currency is fixed by the government. As you may have noticed in the national news media the matter of fixed value of Chinese Yuan (RMB) is

under serious debate between the U.S. and China. The U.S. government thinks the Chinese are keeping the value of their currency artificially low, which makes U.S. products expensive in China and Chinese products cheaper in the US. The logic behind this argument is there is over a \$100 billion trade deficit between the U.S. and China. The United States is asking

China to set higher rate of its currency or expect retaliatory actions.

In conclusion, I would say our government has no influence whatsoever on the value of any currency and we have to learn to live with the consequences of changing values of currencies particularly in our region. I may also add the news reporting of currency rates would be a valuable service to businesses and

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FREE
From Page 1

microl oh yeah
+red

guangdong

gorman

dial rent

PUBLIC NOTICE
December 12th, 13th, 14th, 2003

Acute Violations of CNMI Drinking Water Regulations

Drinking Water Violation: Fecal Coliform-*E. Coli* Areas Between North San Vicente and Papago

(SAIPAN, December 11th, 2003)— Public Water Systems are operated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. The public utility is in violation of the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations in the northern most point of San Vicente, exiting to Papago. All residents in the water regions / village(s) listed are immediately advised of an acute water violation that indicates the presence of the bacteria: *E. Coli*. that is in the family of fecal coliforms.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation collects water samples according to a Monitoring Plan, approved by the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Routine water samples were collected on December 9th and 10th. An independent laboratory, Quality Water, incubated and analyzed the samples. At 3:00 p.m. December 10th, the Utility was notified of possible violations and advised to repeat water collection samples from within the distribution system’s Monitoring Plan that are located in a broader scope, called, “upstream” and “downstream” sampling. Technicians can then determine the extent, scope, or size of the contamination, as noted in the chart below.

Quality Water verifies, on December 11th, that the CUC distribution system remains in violation in northern San Vicente with the presence of fecal coliforms. The utility is required to notify the public and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) of the violation of the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations.

Health Effects

The presence of **Fecal Coliforms** or *E. coli* bacteria is a serious health concern. These bacteria are not generally harmful themselves, but their presence in drinking water is usually associated with animal or human wastes, indicating a problem either with treatment (such as power outages stopping chlorine treatment systems) or problems within the public water transmission pipelines (such as a broken pipe that allows contaminated runoff from homesteads, commercial lots, ranches, and polluted soils to enter into the system). The water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Short-term health effects may include: diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or possibly jaundice, and associated fatigue. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems. These symptoms, however, are not only associated with drinking water; they may also be caused by a number of other factors, other than the water. To reduce adverse health effects, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards. Under the standards, all drinking water must be free of any *E. coli* or Fecal Coliforms.

Do You Have A Catchment Tank?

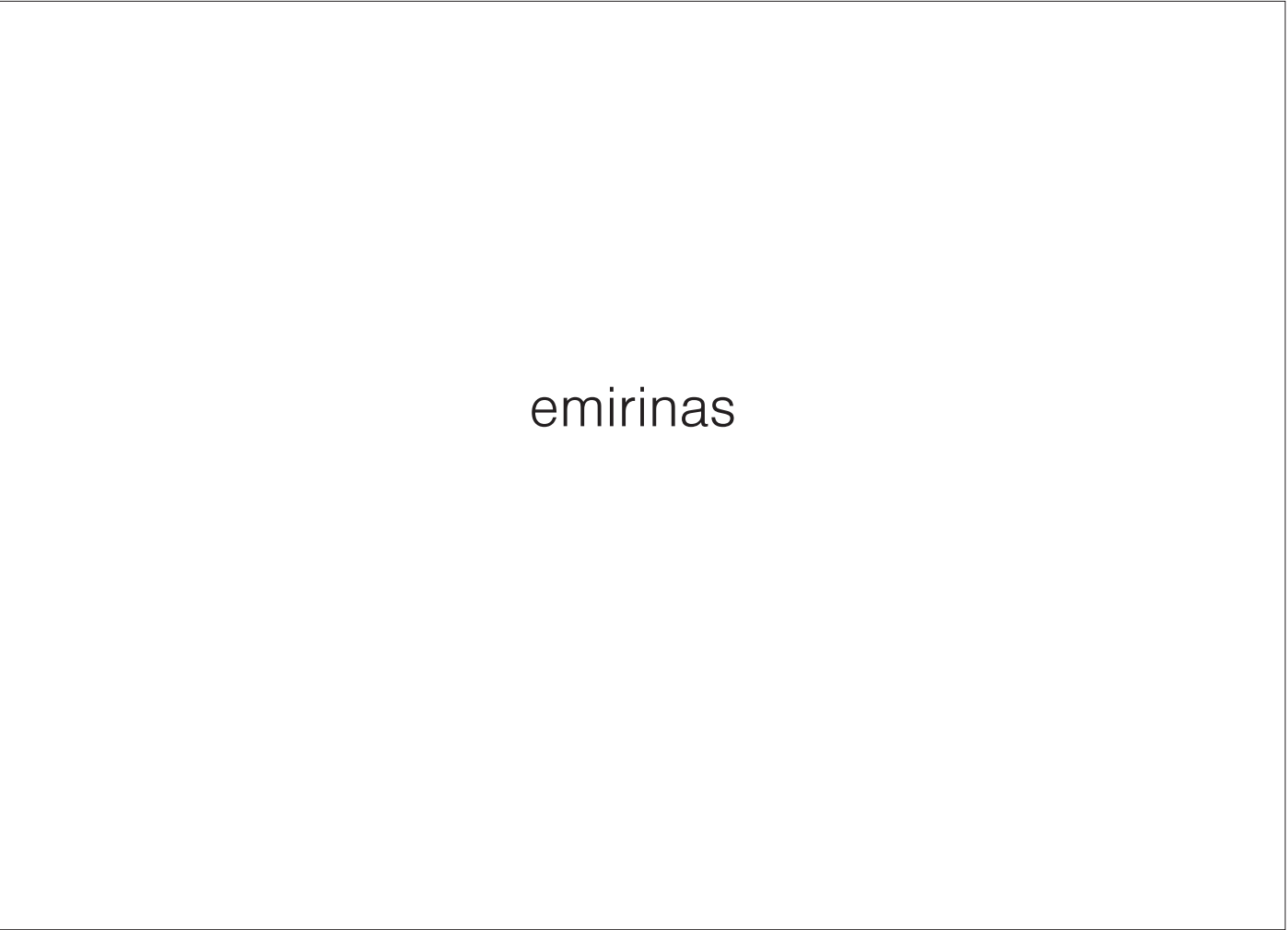
If people collect, store, keep or mix CUC water and rainwater in catchment tanks, or if you store water for several days, we strongly urge customers to first boil water before use. (Bring the water to a rapid boil for about five minutes; OR alternately, household bleach (Clorox™ or Purex™) may be added: 5 drops per gallon or 2 teaspoons per/one hundred (100) gallons of water. Mix the bleach and water and let it stand for 30 minutes before using the water. Otherwise, there are no actions or alternatives necessary.

Corrective Actions Taken

Chlorine Gas is injected into the water. The gas kills harmful bacteria and is a common treatment method. On Thursday, December 11th, 2003, the Lab crews will again collect repeat samples from the contaminated zone and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Chlorination Teams continue to inject chlorine gas at Treatment Stations. The chlorine is fed into the entire distribution systems—at all 13 Saipan water zones. Water is treated primarily at the reservoirs and tanks; and where no tanks are yet built, the wells are first grouped together for treatment prior to water distribution. CUC operates a total of 132 water wells and three springs. has 42 Treatment Stations that are monitored for compliance under the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations, enforced by the DEQ.

Testing Date(s)	Monitoring Plan Sample Site	Villages & Locations of Violation
December 9-11 th	Rita Guerrero Test Site	Between north San Vicente and Papago
December 10 th :	Anthony Guerrero Test Site	Same Family Property-north San Vicente

For more information about water operations, customers may contact CUC Water Manager Jess Castro 235-7025; or CUC Special Advisor Pamela A. Mathis at 235-7037. Questions that relate to the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations can be addressed



Nation

Asia

Asia

World

Science & Technology

Life & Style

400-year-

WALLACE

House clutter may disguise problems that

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been working out of the country for almost a year. Since he’s been gone, I have turned into a housekeeping slob. I have a demanding job where I pick up the slack for missing personnel. I am one of a few musicians at church on Sundays. In addition, I’m struggling with a chronic back problem. I’m overwhelmed.



Dear Abby

Cleaning the house has taken a back seat to all the other things I do, and now it is full of clutter. It’s out of control.

Most of the time I feel like I don’t care. How can I get out of this slump? I feel guilty when I watch my neighbors taking care of their homes. Please help me get going.

NOT MOTIVATED IN ORANGE, CALIF.

DEAR NOT: Has it occurred to you that you might be depressed by your husband’s long absence? The first thing to do is schedule an appointment with your physician for a complete check-up and a frank talk. Once that’s done, ask a friend or two if they’ll help you with the house over a weekend. Treat them to dinner and a movie afterward. Of course, for the same amount of money, you could probably hire someone to help you, but enlisting the help of friends would be more fun. And from my perspective, contact with friends is what you need right now. Good luck.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There is a husband and wife in our church who drive everyone crazy. We live in a small rural area and most of our congregation are simple, modest folk.

These people live in a neighboring town in a very pretentious, affluent neighborhood. They drive an expensive SUV and are extravagant in everything they do. Their children misbehave often, and the whole family acts like they’re better than everyone else. They are all spoiled, lacking in discipline, and seem to have behavior or emotional problems. Despite their bravado, they don’t realize that everybody can see through them.

Maybe if you remind these individuals that God can see them, whether they are in church or not, they’ll know they aren’t fooling anyone.

MISERABLE METHODIST IN NEW YORK

DEAR MISERABLE METHODIST: God can see you, too. And he has asked me to relay this message: “Happy are they who tend to their own gardens and waste not their time complaining about their neighbors’ shortcomings.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For three years in high school, I was sexually harassed by a boy I’ll call “Tim.” When he graduated, I thought my troubles were over. They’re not. Due to a disability, I will not be going away to college. Tim is not going away for the same reason. We will both be attending the same community college.

I have contacted the head of security at the college and will be speaking to him soon.

How do I keep Tim from destroying my dignity like he did in high school? I am terrified of him.

FEARFUL IN OHIO

DEAR FEARFUL: First of all, let’s hope this young man has matured past the point where he would harass you. Neither of you are children anymore.

You are doing the right thing to take your concerns to the head of security. If that fails to resolve the problem, document any and all incidents and promptly report the harassment to the police department.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money

Pastimes

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRAFFIC REPORTS Solutions: 6 letters

T K Y S U W E A R L Y N I A M
A R L H T N E A V O I C E S
C A O E I E I E A I S W E P Y
C P E P T A R X T S A T G L A
E L N W E A D A E I Y N O G D
S L O W E R T R T C I O U P S
S R I C A S P S N N P I D S S
K M T Z K X A E R S D W E R C
B R A K E C U A A E W N T U J
L H M Z D Q W E C N T E E O A
O L R A E S E C T I O N N T M
C B O R D E R I W L T E I E M
K R F T S R E V I R D I R D E
B S N O I T I D N O C G E I D
G N I N R O M A Y T E F A S F

Access, Advice, Area, Block, Border, Brake, Broadcast, Cars, Cities, Clock, Conditions, Crew, Daily, Days, Detours, Drivers, Early, Easy, Exit, Express, Fire, Frequency, Guide, Hazard, Information, Interstate, Jammed, Lines, Loop, Main, Maze, Merge, Morning, Network, News, Park, Report, Safety, Section, Slower, Station, Stops, Toll, Voice, Waits, Warning, Wheel, Witness, Yield. Yesterday's Answer: Paper

NOTE: Postage and handling charges have changed for The Collector's Wonderword. (A) \$1 for the first book ordered, \$1 more for each additional book. Volumes 17 and 18 are \$5.95 each, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, P.O. Box 1000, 400 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64101 or call 800-451-7237, ext. 6610.

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Superheroes

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COULD YOU TRY TO WRITE MORE CLEARLY? LAST TIME, THE GIRL AT THE PHARMACY SLAPPED ME!

TEENY-BOP TO THE REScue

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 To and — remark
4 Spelldown
7 Bear
12 Mason's field
13 Can. prov.
14 It's from the heart
15 B&B
16 Il not
18 Society-page word
19 Snap
20 Microbe
22 Golfer Ernie
23 Confront
27 Summer time
29 Chicken
31 Teary
34 Napped leather
35 Symbol
37 Pompous sort
38 Subway, in London
39 Mel of Coopers town
41 Vague
45 Hostess snacks

DOWN

1 Hurl
2 Indian princess
3 Landlord, often
4 Nilwil
5 Main dish
6 Lucy's pal
7 Fir coat
8 Squabble
9 Swiss canton
10 "— impossible"
11 Dundee denial
17 Comfortable
21 Syrup flavor
23 It beats a straight
24 Brewery creation
25 Massa chusetts cape
26 Ram's ma'am
28 Go green?
30 Curvaceous character?
31 Sopping
32 Flightless bird
33 Recede
36 Othello was one
37 Promptly
40 "... — finest hour"
42 Friendship
43 They have all the time in the world
44 Hayseed
45 Towel designation
46 Charon's river
48 Rotation duration
49 Infuriation
50 Part of the Dept. of HHS
51 In favor of

Solution time: 25 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 1-30

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY
Khleo Thomas, Christian Bale, Brett Butler, Dick Cheney

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Let the past go or it will stand in the way of your accomplishments this year. Live for the present and make up your mind to be and do the best you can from this point forward. Times have been tough, but the tables are turning. Your numbers are 8, 12, 17, 26, 35, 44

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Hard work will bring rewards. Doors are opening and your options are growing. Take on extra work and you will be praised for your ability to get things done. ***



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You must not take anything or anyone for granted. Make your plans carefully, leaving no room for error. Include the people you care most about so that no one feels left out. ***



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You will be indecisive about everything today. You will probably be given the wrong information about something you are working on. The more you can do to improve the issues causing you grief, the better. ***



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
What you do today could alter the way things turn out in your future. You can secure a relationship or earn a higher position in an organization you belong to. ****



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You may be questioned if you have made promises that aren't being honored. You will have to counteract any negative action by taking positive action. Backtrack if you must, but get the job done. **



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Listen to advice from someone you respect on how to face the present situation. You can incorporate some of the methods you learn into your everyday life in order to make things better. *****



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Time may be a factor when it comes to a deal you are involved in. Contracts that are not in your favor must be dealt with. If you have to walk away from a deal, be prepared to do so. ***



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
New romantic encounters will develop through events you attend or a hobby you are trying to develop. The support you drum up, coupled with your magnetic ability to lead, will bring great results. ****



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Consider applying for a position that will give you the freedom to do what you enjoy doing the most. Don't settle for anything less than what you know you are capable of doing. ***



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Get involved in social activities. Partnerships can form and opportunities will occur. Travel should be in your plans. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Look at the big picture and you can avoid arguments that will lead to grief. Include the whole family in your plans or you may hurt someone's feelings. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your sweet and congenial way of dealing with people will result in love and romance today. Take the

BIRTHDAY BABY: You have an exceptional way of handling situations that surprises others. You are always trying to help others and you have a great desire to do something worthwhile.

(Need advice? Check out Eugenia on the Web at www.astroadvice.com or www.eugenialast.com.)

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Watterson

IF ANYONE HITS ME WITH A SNOWBALL, I'LL HIT HIM WITH 250 SNOWBALLS!

WHAT IF SOMEBODY HITS YOU WITH 250 SNOWBALLS?

...SIGH...

Garfield®

by Jim Davis

YOU'VE REALLY LET YOURSELF GO

HA HA HA

Adam@home

By Brian Basset

I THOUGHT YOU DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN WERE A THING OF THE PAST.

I HOPE NOT. MY PREVIOUS PROFESSION MIGHT BE HEADING THAT WAY — THAT'S WHY I GOT INTO THIS.

WHAT LINE OF WORK WERE YOU IN BEFORE?

TELE-MARKETING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DARN IT, FANG! CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT?

I TOLD YOU TO SHOVEL THE WALK!!

NOT WALK THE SHOVEL!!

DANG. I ALWAYS GET THAT WRONG.

Pastimes



EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	G
New Jersey	39	25	.609	-
Philadelphia	37	26	.587	1 1/2
Boston	37	27	.578	2
Orlando	33	33	.500	7
Washington	31	33	.484	8
New York	28	36	.438	11
Miami	21	43	.328	18

Central Division

Detroit	40	23	.635	-
Indiana	38	27	.585	3
New Orleans	37	29	.561	4 1/2
Milwaukee	32	33	.492	9
Atlanta	26	39	.400	15
Chicago	23	43	.348	18 1/2
Toronto	20	42	.323	19 1/2
Cleveland	11	53	.172	29 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Dallas	48	15	.762	-
San Antonio	45	18	.714	3
Minnesota	42	25	.627	8
Utah	37	27	.578	11 1/2
Houston	33	30	.524	15
Memphis	23	41	.359	25 1/2
Denver	14	51	.215	35

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L
New Jersey	31	14
Boston	26	19
Philadelphia	24	22
Orlando	24	23
Washington	22	24
New York	19	25
Miami	16	2 9

Central Division

Indiana	33	13
Detroit	29	15
New Orleans	24	22
Milwaukee	22	22
Chicago	17	28
Atlanta	17	29
Toronto	11	34
Cleveland	9	37

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Dallas	35	9
San Antonio	29	16
Minnesota	27	18
Utah	27	18
Houston	24	20
Memphis	13	31
Denver	10	35

Pacific Division

Sacramento	32	14
Portland	28	16
Phoenix	26	21
L.A. Lakers	20	23
Seattle	20	23

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Orlando	2	0
New Jersey	1	0
Philadelphia	1	1
Boston	0	1
Miami	0	1
New York	0	1
Washington	0	1

Central Division

Chicago	1	0
Detroit	1	0
Indiana	1	0
Toronto	1	0
New Orleans	0	0
Atlanta	0	1
Cleveland	0	1
Milwaukee	0	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Dallas	1	0
Minnesota	1	0
San Antonio	1	0
Utah	0	0
Denver	0	1
Houston	0	1
Memphis	0	1

Pacific Division

Sacramento	1	0
Portland	1	0
Golden State	0	0
L.A. Clippers	0	0
Phoenix	0	0
Seattle	0	0
L.A. Lakers	0	2

Wednesday's Games

Chicago 99, Boston 96
Indiana 91, Houston 82
Toronto 74, Washington 68
Philadelphia 95, Milwaukee 93
Orlando 100, Miami 86
New Jersey 105, Atlanta 94

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
Giants	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	-	3	
Hustlers	1	0	1	4	2	0	5	-	13	



SPORTS BRIEFS



Spurs defeat Mavericks, 111-104

Tony Parker scored a career-high 32 points, including seven free throws in the final minute, to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 111-104 win over the division rival Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

48

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yearend RGA champion tourney tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold their yearend Club Champion Tournament tomorrow, December 14, at the Lao Lao West golf course.

51

